

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:LRG

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

EUR; MR. LAINGEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176020

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, MO, MR, SS, AG

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: MEMCON OF ROVIRA-SISCO TALK OF
JULY 23

1. FOLLOWING END OF ROUND 8 OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS JULY 23,
ROVIRA CALLED ON SISCO AT LATTER'S INVITATION TO RECEIVE
ANSWER TO PRESENTATION ROVIRA MADE TO SISCO ON SAHARA JUNE
19 AT END OF PREVIOUS WASHINGTON ROUND. ANSWERING SISCO'S
OPENING REQUEST FOR SITREP, ROVIRA SAID MOROCCO HAD REFUSED
SPAIN'S PROPOSAL FOR FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE. SPAIN CONSE-
QUENTLY HAD TURNED TO WALDHEIM, BUT IS NOT HOPEFUL THIS
WILL HELP. SPAIN ASKED WALDHEIM TO SEND A PERSONAL REPRE-
SENTATIVE TO SPANISH SAHARA WHO COULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE
SYG FROM EL AIIUN.

2. WHEN SISCO LATER ASKED WHAT ELSE SPAIN PLANS TO DO,
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ROVIRA SAID SPAIN WOULD LEAVE IT UP TO THE SAHARANS TO
DECIDE. SPAIN INTENDS TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO FORM THEIR
OWN GOVERNMENT. IF THEY THEN CHOOSE TO JOIN MOROCCO AND/OR
MAURITANIA, SPAIN WOULD ACCEPT IT. SPAIN WOULD MAKE NO

UNILATERAL DECISIONS ON SAHARA'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WHICH PERFORCE HAVE TO BE GOOD. ANSWERING A QUESTION, ROVIRA SAID THE PHOSPHATE RESOURCES DO COMPLICATE THE ISSUES.

3. ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTION, ROVIRA SAID THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN THE SAHARA IS DETERIORATING. SPAIN IS GETTING OUT AND OTHERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION. THE F-POLISARIO GROUP IS UNWILLING TO KEEP THE PEACE. SPAIN HAS HAD TO INCREASE GUARDS AT BORDER POSTS, AND WILL CLOSE THE BORDER IF NEED BE.

4. SPAIN HAS INSISTED ON GETTING A COMMITMENT FROM ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES TO HELP KEEP PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE AREA. WALDHEIM HAS BEEN INFORMED OF A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS. "SPAIN IS TRYING TO PLAY IT COOL, BUT MOROCCO APPARENTLY DOES NOT WANT AN AGREEMENT." ROVIRA MENTIONED JULY 23 WASHINGTON POST REPORT ON "ANOTHER BORDER INCIDENT IN WHICH SEVERAL MOROCCAN TROOPS WERE CAPTURED."

5. REGARDING ALGERIA'S ROLE, ROVIRA SAID THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR AT RABAT HAD REPORTED THERE IS SOME KIND OF ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN ACCORD, BUT SPECIFICS ARE UNKNOWN. DESPITE THE NICE WORDS FOLLOWING THE BOUTEFLIKA VISIT, ROVIRA SAID ALGERIA STILL FAVORS SAHARAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND IS NOT READY TO APPROVE PARTITION BY MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. ALGERIA WOULD COME TO A UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE, BUT MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA WOULD NOT. THEY ARE WAITING FOR SPAIN TO HAND THE SAHARA OVER TO THEM IN DIRECT "BILATERAL" TALKS.

6. SISCO DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON ANY OF ROVIRA'S ASSERTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT SPANISH REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT, SISCO STATED THAT THE US HAD TOLD WALDHEIM THAT THERE COULD BE SOME USEFUL UN ROLE, BUT IT IS UP TO WALDHEIM AND THE PARTIES TO DEFINE IT AND WORK OUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MODALITIES. WALDHEIM WILL NEED TIME TO WORK ON THIS -- HE HAS A LOT OF OTHER DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO WORK ON SUCH AS CYPRUS AND THE UNEF ISSUE. SISCO ALSO STATED THE BELIEF THAT US HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO SPAIN, IF IN A LIMITED WAY.

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